

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of retrieving documents from a database, comprising:
generating a query in a first language;
parsing said query into a plurality of terms;
translating said plurality of terms into a second language;
listing a plurality of permutations of said translated terms;
testing said permutations against each document of said database; and
retrieving documents from said database based on said test.
2. (Original) A method of retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 1, further comprising:
computing a score for each of said permutations of said translated terms against each document of said database having text in said second language wherein said score indicates a measure of relevance of each permutation to each document.
3. (Original) A method of retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 2, further comprising:
retrieving documents from said database based on said score.
4. (Original) A method of retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 2, further comprising:
sorting said scores of said permutations to identify the highest ranking permutation; and
retrieving a document associated with said identified highest ranking permutation.

5. (Original) A method of retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 4, further comprising:

retrieving a plurality of documents in an order corresponding to an order generated by said sorting of said permutations.

6. (Original) An apparatus for retrieving documents from a database, comprising:
a computer coupled to a storage unit and to a display unit, said storage unit stores a database in at least one file;

said computer generates a query in a first language;

said computer parses said query into a plurality of terms;

said computer translates said plurality of terms into a second language corresponding to at least one language of documents stored in said database;

said computer generates a listing of a plurality of permutations of said translated terms;

said computer tests said permutations against each document of said database; and

said computer retrieves documents from said database in said storage unit based on said test.

7. (Original) An apparatus for retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 6,
wherein:

said computer computes a score for each of said permutations of said translated terms against each document of said database having text in said second language wherein said score indicates a measure of relevance of each permutation to each document.

8. (Original) An apparatus for retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 7,
wherein:

said computer retrieves documents from said database based on said score.

9. (Original) An apparatus for retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 7,
wherein:

 said computer sorts said scores of said permutations to identify the highest ranking permutation;
 and

 said computer retrieves a document associated with said identified highest ranking permutation.

10. (Original) An apparatus for retrieving documents from a database, as in claim 9,
wherein:

 said computer retrieves a plurality of documents in an order corresponding to an order generated
 by said sorting of said permutations.